

GAP YEAR & POSTSECONDARY TRANSITION PROGRAM

PROGRAM VISION & MISSION

Anchor Academy offers gap-year and transitional services for students who require additional support beyond their 12th-grade year or for those who may not diploma-bound. Individualized transition plans are developed to address each student's unique strengths, needs, and postsecondary goals. Services may include MCAS preparation and support, credit recovery, dual enrollment opportunities, job training programs, career exploration, vocational skill development, and instruction to strengthen independent living skills. Each student's individualized program is aligned with and support the goals and services outlined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP), promoting meaningful progress toward greater independence, employment, and continued education.

Core Philosophy: To create a transformative learning experience that fosters resilience, builds confidence, and empowers students to become skilled, informed, and responsible. Through individualized instruction and meaningful real-world experiences, students develop the academic, vocational, social, and independent living skills needed to achieve their personal, educational, and career goals.

CUSTOMIZED PATHWAYS

Career and Vocational Exploration:

Supports students with resume and cover letter writing, completing job or college applications, developing interview skills, and strengthening the activities of daily living (ADLs) that contribute to workplace success, such as communication, organization, time management, and self-advocacy. Through off-campus vocational experiences, community-based work opportunities, and on-campus career fairs, students explore a variety of career pathways while developing practical job skills through meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.

Postsecondary Learning & Higher Education:

Preparation for college, technical institutes, certificate programs, and adult education opportunities, including college tours, college fairs, and application navigation and FAFSA completion. Students gain knowledge and confidence needed to pursue educational opportunities that align with their interests, strengths, and long-term goals.

Independent Living & Soft Skills:

Building confidence for everyday life, our curriculum includes:

- Accessing and safely using public transportation
- Budgeting, banking, and financial management
- Community navigation and participation
- Culinary skills, meal planning, and nutrition
- Household organization and daily living routines
- Self-advocacy, communication, and problem-solving skills

Dual Enrollment Opportunities:

Students participating in Anchor Academy's Gap Year program have the opportunity to engage in dual enrollment experiences that support a successful transition to college, career, and adulthood. Through individualized planning, students may enroll in college coursework while continuing to receive the academic, social-emotional, vocational, and transitional supports provided by Anchor Academy.

DEDICATED SUPPORT TEAM

Transition Coordinator

Provides students with an individualized approach to achieving their academic, career, and postsecondary goals. The Transition Coordinator develops plans where students receive career readiness support and engage in functional academics, independent living skills, community-based learning, employment preparation, and postsecondary education and training. This comprehensive approach ensures that each student's plan matches their IEP.

Director of Education

Collaborates with students, the school district, and the Transition Coordinator to keep Anchor Academy's curriculum aligned with their individualized educational plans and goals.

Classroom Counselors

Classroom Counselors offer real-time guidance, feedback, and self-regulation strategies while fostering independence, self-advocacy, and problem-solving skills. Through individualized planning and skill development, students are empowered to access on-campus educational programming, participate in off-campus vocational and community-based learning opportunities, and build the confidence needed to succeed in school, the workplace, and adult life.

Clinicians

Provide individualized and group counseling to help students navigate daily life, strengthen regulation skills, and build the tools they need for life beyond Anchor Academy.

COMMUNITY & PARTNER IMPACT

Anchor Academy's collaborations and community engagement ensures real-world learning and seamless transitions.

- Supported vocational opportunities and internships related to student driven goals.
- Consultation and communication with sending districts to provide a seamless transition and a collaborative experience for the student and team.
- Comprehensive IEP goal and data tracking from enrollment to program completion.
- Collaboration with career counselors through Tempus Unlimited to support students of all abilities in living and working independently.

Community Partnerships:

- Our Daily Bread
- Gifts to Give
- Habitat for Humanity
- The Community Boating Center
- FullEnvision Farm
- Wellsprings Farm
- Spohr Gardens
- Counsel on Aging

